

AIRS NGO MOU Policy Request for SIEC Approval

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Public Safety Interoperable
Communications Office



Background



- Arizona Department of Public Safety (DPS) has requested recommendations from the SIEC on a policy regarding access to AIRS by Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs).
- The PSIC office met with DPS to review its policy requirements and researched possible approaches.
- PSIC presented the results of its discussions and research at the October SIEC meeting
- Based on feedback from the October SIEC meeting, we have refined our recommendations as presented for approval today.

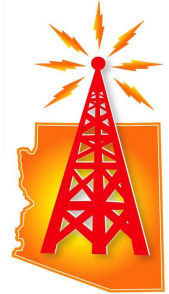
AIRS MOU & SOP



- The AIRS MOU is primarily an FCC licensing instrument and therefore it requires a direct agreement between DPS (the licensee) and the signing agency. As a result, an NGO can not be included under an existing MOU with a Public Safety Agency.
- The current AIRS Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) describes the purpose of AIRS as:

“These radio frequencies are to be used in the event of a multi-agency, multi-discipline, and/or multi-jurisdictional operation requiring the use of the common state radio channel(s), specifically for the purpose of coordinating activities during identified incidents.”

AIRS SOP Eligibility



- The current AIRS Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) describes eligibility as follows:

AIRS is designed to provide interoperable communications capability to first responders of police, fire, and EMS agencies, as well as other personnel of municipal, county, state, tribal, and federal agencies performing public safety or public service activities. DPS may also determine that selected non-governmental organizations (NGOs) performing public safety or public service activities are eligible for approval to use AIRS. (From section 1.2 of the AIRS SOP)

Proposed MOU Policy/Procedure



- Step 1: DPS may require an NGO to present express written support from a recognized government agency that is responsible for emergency management planning for its jurisdiction to the effect that the NGO is “performing public safety or public service activities warranting them to be given access to use of the common state radio channel(s) specifically for the purpose of coordinating activities during identified incidents”.
- Note: The jurisdiction of the government agency supporting the NGO’s access to AIRS must match the geographical area for which the NGO is requesting AIRS usage.

Proposed MOU Policy/Procedure, cont.



- Step 2: DPS may request concurrence from the SIEC, through its NIMS-CU Workgroup, in the event that the role of the NGO warrants, in DPS' judgment, additional review.
- Step 3: DPS as licensee shall be responsible for making the final decision regarding whether or not to sign an MOU with any NGO.
- Withdrawal: The supporting government agency may withdraw their support of an NGO's use of AIRS by informing DPS and the NGO in writing at any time. Once the supporting agency's support is withdrawn the AIRS MOU will be voided by DPS and the NGO must promptly discontinue use of AIRS.

AIRS – NGO MOU Policy



Discussion;
Possible Approval